

A GERMAN SPY CAN FOLLOW A MAN BEHIND HIM

Written by One Who Was Trained for the Work.

Illustrations by Albert Levering.

An Excellent Method of Allaying Suspicion, It Is but One of the Many and Handy Accomplishments of Those Who Comprise the Kaiser's Secret Service—A Preliminary Course That Pays Particular Attention to the Ear.

WHAT is a spy? Although it is well known that the spy systems of the warring nations are very potential and of the most far-reaching nature, very few persons outside of the secret or so-called "spy" service know anything about the actual work of the secret organizations. In Germany and in Japan the secret service work has reached the highest state of perfection.

How a person becomes a spy and how he or she afterward carries out the work depend upon the group of secret workers that the novice is introduced to or thrown in contact with through circumstances.

The volunteer or self-appointed spy is not to be considered in the following account, but merely the professionals or accredited investigators.

Germany has four classes of "spionnen," as they are called in the vernacular, but never officially. The system comprises (1) the emperor's private staff, about sixty men and nine women; (2) the War Office staff, which now numbers 6,000; (3) the government secret service, about five hundred officials and eight thousand men and one hundred and eighty women, and finally the (4) "geheimnits polizei" or secret police, who are similarly situated as the American police detectives, but far more efficient, and their number is legion. Then there is a small contingent attached to embassies and legations.

AN INTIMATION THAT SPIES DO NOT ALWAYS DIE A NATURAL DEATH.

Almost without exception the first three groups comprise persons who have evolved into the secret service. It is very seldom that an adult person steps from any "open" occupation into the work. An endless chain is constantly being forged. When spies die, and they often do in other ways than the natural, there are always assistants that are ready to step into their boots. These recruits are "graduates" and have gone through the preliminary

training course that is probably described here now for the first time.

The "students" are first given thorough tests for hearing, sight and mental activity. These tests are similar to those used by the railroads. Each morning a system of the most extraordinary calisthenics is practised. One of the most curious things is the side twist of the head, which is practised so long that the graduate can place his or her chin against the point of the right shoulder and remain in that position for a long while. This enables the spy to stand with the ear against a wall or a door and listen for hours without getting a stiff neck and fatigue. To stand motionless for hours, to walk over a creaking floor without making a noise, to walk on creaking stairs noiselessly and to insert keys, to unlock doors in silence are some of the stunts practised. The most treacherous stairways are nego-

tiated by walking close to the walls, and the noisy floor plank is mastered by a gradual and firm pressing motion. The crossbeams of a floor are easily located by the experienced, and are usually stable and silent.

It is wonderful what the noises in a wall in even the most silent house will reveal. The spy is taught to eliminate the obvious sounds. He presses the ear flat against the wall; plaster is better than wall paper, but solid wood is good, and a thin door panel is still better, provided the door fits snugly and has good support.

First he hears the noise of his own heart beat, then the rumblings of other internal organs. He soon becomes oblivious to these sounds and gets the rhythmic sound of the water system of the house. Then there are intermittent sounds of drizzling plaster, the sounds (carried incredible distances) of street cars, railway trains, automobiles and passing pedestrians. These soon become regular and familiar sounds to the listener. The clatter of horses' hoofs is the most annoying, as it is the most penetrating and comes and goes gradually. Any one can observe all of these sounds in any city house, but the task of the spy is to overcome them and to distinguish conversation in the next room or even the room beyond, below or above. American office buildings are hopeless for the listener, as the elevators not only rumble but vibrate the listening surfaces noticeably. The tickings of clocks, snorers and humming gas jets, a pounding radiator, the gnawing of rats and even prowling cats often make the work hard.

Graduates that understand various languages are much in demand, and yet each country prefers a native born. The members of the secret service are seldom armed, but when weapons are required they prefer the ammonia pistol, as it is silent, does not kill, but disables the victim by blinding him for a short period, and it can be used at any distance up to sixty feet. A bulb containing a solution of ammonia in the handle of the pistol contains enough for a dozen shots. The Weitzel type of ammonia pistol has an enormous leverage and is only made for the use of the secret service.

A full-fledged spy also carries the

"signal," the open sesame of everything German. The signal has perhaps never been seen by an outsider. It is the most powerful credential or token, and yet the most clandestine on earth. The wives and closest friends of the sleuths do not even get a glimpse of it. It is a silver framed shield about as large as the palm of the hand, with a black velvet ground on which is embossed in silver the great Prussian eagle on one side and the "W. II." on the other, for "Wilhelm II." It also has a small number, according to the possessor. This "Signal" is shown only in the most extreme cases, and will carry the bearer past any sentinel or bodyguard even up to the Emperor's personal aids and himself, if necessary.

The shadowing spy also carries a piece of flexible celluloid or an ordinary photographic film which makes an ideal telephone muffler, speaking trumpet or listening cone when rolled up. Also, the confetti "patronen" or cartridges that prove so essential in trailing are frequently used. These small cartridges filled with white, pink or pale blue confetti or small pieces of paper and a small piece of looking glass form important paraphernalia to the spy that has to keep closely to his quarry for miles after miles of crowded streets or from trolley cars to trains and even through the mazes of busy office buildings, as the following will show.

To the outsider these tricks of the profession may seem childish and extreme. Yet the Wilhelmstrasse brains of the great imperial secret service prefer those methods and they prove the most efficient after all.

After making sure that he carries his regular equipment the spy goes to his office or rendezvous for his daily assignment, unless he has an unfinished task that requires no further instructions. Cafes or cigar stores are the best places. From a waiter or attendant or some lounging customer he receives verbal orders or information that reveals his day's task. Names when written are often spelled out correctly, but telephone numbers or street numbers are either doubled or halved in all notebooks or memoranda. Each man has an individual code, but there is no national code for the general work and the military codes are too fluctuating for police or

spy use. Spies, because of the nature of their work and their personal peculiarities, are never trusted beyond their daily task.

For instance, one morning the sleuth is to meet a colleague at a certain bank for the purpose of observing the doings of two foreigners that are suspected of being ammunition agents.

He meets his partner and they wait patiently for the arrival of the two "objects." They usually arrive under the shadow of another sleuth who perhaps has been working all night. The men are pointed out by a nod or gesture and the actual work begins. One man goes into the bank with the strangers and watches their every move; he makes notes of the names or location of the clerks or officials with whom they converse, and other details. When they leave the bank, and if the two objects separate, he takes the trail of one and his partner the other. It is here where the confetti does its valuable work.

Confetti in New York Is but the Aftermath of a Mardi Gras, but Confetti in the Streets of Berlin Is Something Else Again—As for Chalk Marks, What Looks To Be the Artistry of a Strolling Boy Very Frequently Is Not.

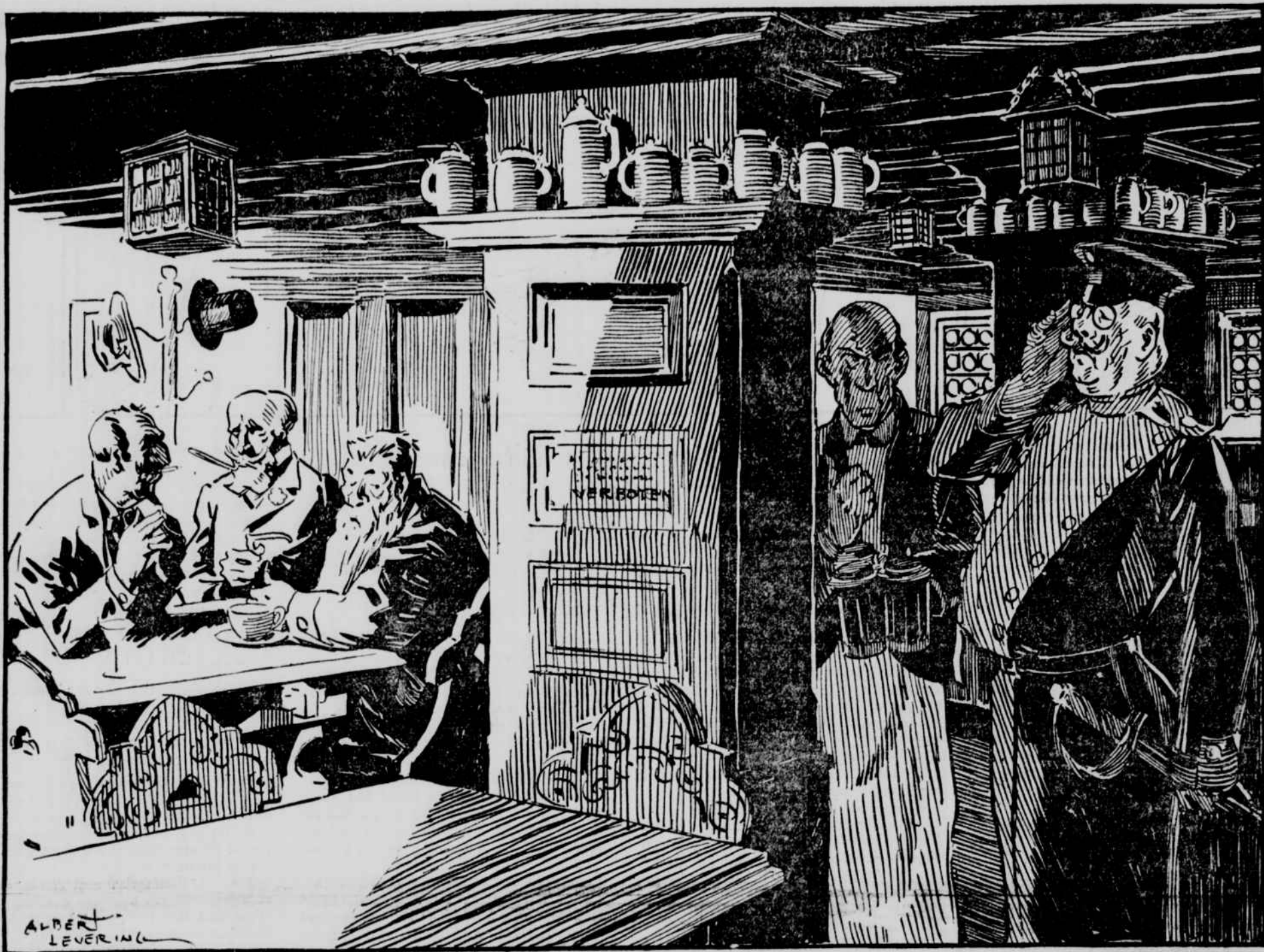
Sleuth A follows one man. At the next street corner the man turns and his trailer also turns, and in so doing streaks the wall of the building with a peculiar purple chalk, of a color not used generally. He keeps on following his man and at every corner he marks the building so deftly and so inconspicuously that a bystander does not notice it. As long as the object keeps walking straight ahead the trailer only marks one side of the corner, but if the object turns he marks both sides of the corner, showing that he has turned to the right or left. If then the object should board a car the sleuth will crush one of the white confetti cartridges with his fingers and the persistent little pieces of paper fall to the street and stick in the crevices between the cobble stones or the paving blocks, or even cling tenaciously to the asphalt, defying both sweepers and brooms for hours. If the object changes cars the trailer will drop a pink cluster of confetti and the chalk marks will tell the story as they alight.

CHIEF AMONG THE STAGE PROP-ERTIES OF SLEUTHING ARE CHALK AND CONFETTI.

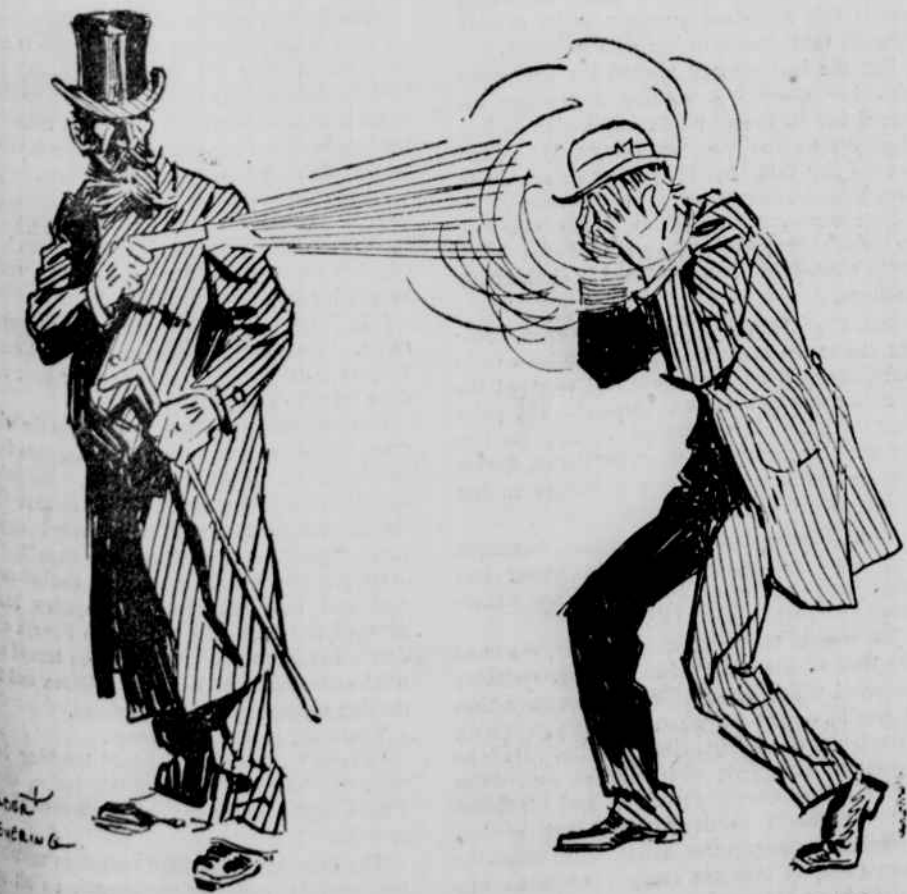
When the sleuth is relieved that even- ing he does not have to leave his object out of his sight. The sleuth that relieves him will merely take up the thread from the bank and will, as a rule, in incredibly short time locate his man in any part of the city. This is much more easily done in European cities, as the streetcar systems are not so intricate and the streets are usually paved with cobble stones or bricks. The telephone is not so readily available abroad. In Berlin, for instance, there are the most pretentious homes and thousands of shops and stores without telephones. So, even though the traitor could leave his object for a moment to telephone headquarters, it would be almost impossible to find an available telephone station or even an instrument in a private house.

The trailer when observing that the object enters a house or shop will at

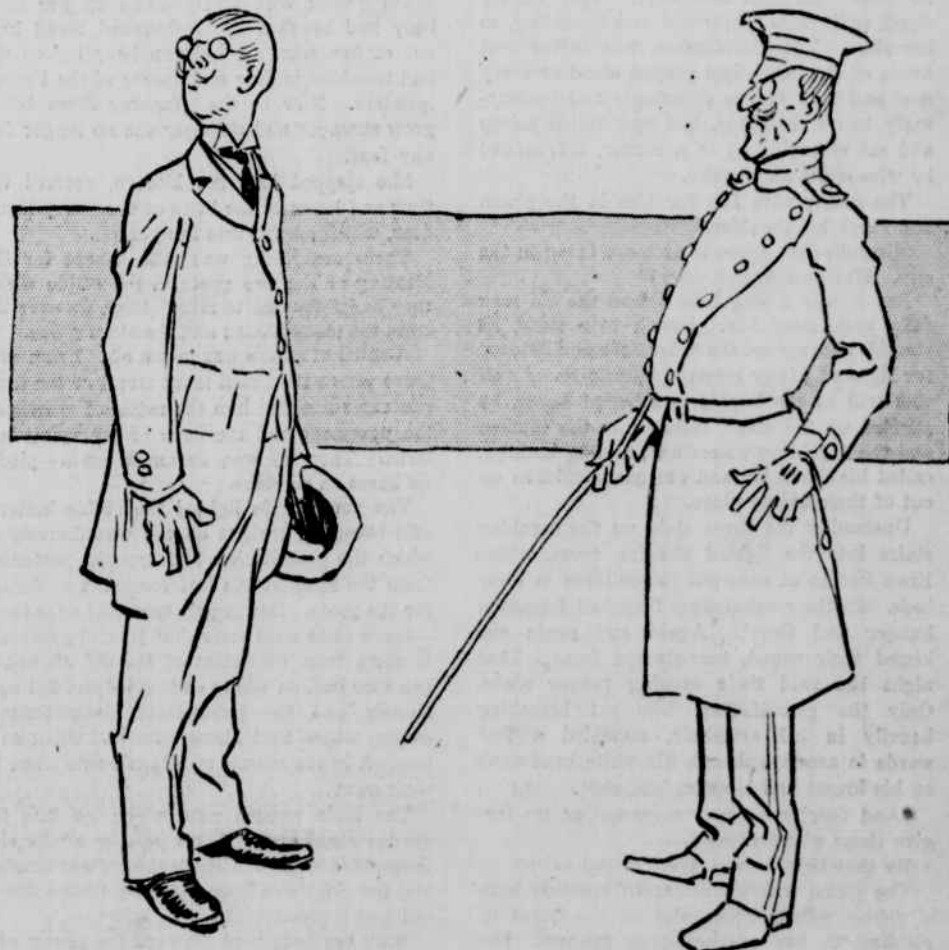
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FROM A WAITER HE RECEIVES VERBAL ORDERS OR INFORMATION.



THEY PREFER THE AMMONIA PISTOL, AS IT IS SILENT.



TRAINING A GRADUATE TO PLACE HIS CHIN ON HIS SHOULDER.